



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Montana Grain Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during July 2008 through December 2008 was 49.2 million bushels, down 40 percent from the previous year.

Just over 93 percent of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 45.7 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year earlier. Movement to eastern destinations during this period totaled 1.5 million bushels, down 77 percent from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 1.9 million bushels, down 48 percent from a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail amounted to 47.5 million bushels, 97 percent of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 1.7 million bushels compared with 2.0 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 3 percent of the total, which was up 1 percentage point from the previous year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the July 2008 to December 2008 period was 4.2 million bushels, down 45 percent from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were down 60 percent from the same period last year, at .9 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations were down 35 percent from last year at 2.6 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations went from 1.5 million bushels last year to .8 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 3.9 million bushels, down 3.6 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 92 percent of total movement, down 5 percentage points from the same period last year.

2008 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2008, up 2 percent from 2007. There were 20,400 cattle slaughtered during 2008, up 1,000 head from the previous year. The total live weight of 23.7 million pounds was up 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 28 pounds to 1,164 pounds.

There were 13,400 hogs slaughtered in Montana, down 3 percent from 2007. Total live weight of 3.5 million pounds was up 1 percent from last year. The average live weight was 260 pounds per head compared with 250 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 4,300 head, up 800 head from 2007. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2008 increased 12 percent from 2007 to 448,000 pounds. The average live weight, of 105 pounds, was 9 pounds lower than the previous year.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2008 was 8, down 1 plant from 2007. There were 145 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2008, down 7 plants from the same date a year ago.

Total red meat production for the United States totaled 50.4 billion pounds in 2008, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 50.2 billion pounds. On-farm production totaled 137 million pounds. (continued on page two)

Wheat and Barley Shipments out of Montana from July 2008 through December 2008 1/

	Barley	Durum Wheat	Hard White Wheat	Soft White Wheat	Spring Wheat	Winter Wheat	Total Wheat
1,000 Bushels							
Shipments By Truck							
West	216	2	3	2	311	944	1,262
East	105	27	--	1	8	5	41
Other & Unknown	16	--	--	1	97	274	372
Total Shipments by Truck	337	29	3	4	416	1,223	1,675
Shipments By Rail							
West	667	10	--	--	16,976	27,476	44,462
East	2,467	923	--	--	570	--	1,493
Other & Unknown	777	1,166	--	--	298	63	1,527
Total Shipments by Rail	3,911	2,099	--	--	17,844	27,539	47,482
Total Shipments	4,248	2,128	3	4	18,260	28,762	49,157

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100 percent of elevator capacity.

2008 Red Meat Production

(continued from page one)

Beef production totaled 26.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 152 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Pork production, at 23.4 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 180 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2007.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2008 totaled 34.4 million head, up slightly from 2007, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,282 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 50.1 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.9 percent, dairy cows 7.7 percent, other cows 10.6 percent, and bulls 1.8 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 956,600 head, 26 percent higher than a year ago with 98.5 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 257 pounds, down 48 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 116.5 million head, 7 percent higher than 2007 with 99.1 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 268 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.56 million head, was down 5 percent from the previous year with 93.7 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from 2007 at 136 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.9 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 818 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2009 compared with 807 last year. Of these, 630 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2008 with

the 14 largest plants slaughtering 55 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 12 largest plants accounting for 55 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 251 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 55 percent of the total and 4 of the 496 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2008 comprised 65 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 50 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2008, similar to 2007.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2009, up 2 percent from a year ago, but down 4 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, 8 percent above a year ago. The average live weight of 1,201 pounds decreased 58 pounds from last year.

During February, 700 hogs were slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight of 245 pounds was down 45 pounds from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from February 2008. The average live weight increased 9 pounds from last year to 104 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.83 billion pounds in February, down 4 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in February 2008.

Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 4 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,310 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, slightly below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled

74,100 head, up 7 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was down 15 pounds from last year, at 257 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.91 million head, down 5 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 15 percent from February 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 180,100 head, 15 percent below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

January to February 2009 commercial red meat production was 7.99 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was up 3 percent, pork was down 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 12 percent.

February U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.7 billion pounds, down 2.5 percent from February 2008. January revised production at 14.9 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from January 2008. The January revision represented an increase of 52 million pounds or 0.4 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Please see the special note below.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,608 pounds for February, 48 pounds below February 2008.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.49 million head, 31,000 head more than February 2008, but 16,000 head less than January 2009.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below March 1, 2008.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million, 3 percent below 2008. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 538,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 435,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million, 5 percent below 2008.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 during February, 7 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

March 1 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt in storage on March 1, 2009, down 3 percent from the previous year. This number represents 87 percent of the 2008 Montana potato crop.

The 13 major potato States held 151 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2009, down 8 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below March 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 41 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below March 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.00 million cwt on March 1, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 217 million cwt, was 8 percent below March 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.7 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in 2008 and 8 percent below

2007. Processors in the 9 major States have used 117 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 8 percent from the same period last year and down 8 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 21.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

February Egg Production Down 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2009, down 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.91 billion table eggs, and 985 million hatching eggs, of which 917 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2009 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,023 eggs, down 2 percent from February 2008.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.07 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2009, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from March 1, 2008.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2009 totaled 36.9 million, down 2 percent from February 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.2 million on March 1, 2009, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 256 thousand during February 2009, down 9 percent from February 2008.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2009 totaled 701 million, down 9 percent from February 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 634 million on March 1, 2009, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.22 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2009, down 4 percent from February 2008.

Wheat Supply and Use

U.S. wheat ending stocks for 2008/09 are projected 57 million bushels higher this month with higher projected imports and lower expected domestic use and exports. Imports are raised 10 million bushels reflecting the strong pace to date. Food use is projected 25 million bushels lower based on the latest mill grind data from the U.S. Bureau of Census. High extraction rates for 2008-crop wheat have reduced the amount of grain needed to produce flour and lower per capita consumption is reducing demand for flour. Seed use is lowered 2 million bushels reflecting lower expected 2009-crop acreage. Exports are projected 20 million bushels lower as increased exports by major competitors limit opportunities for U.S. wheat. Lower projected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, and durum wheats are only partly offset by an increase for white wheat. The projected season-average farm price is unchanged at \$6.70 to \$6.90 per bushel.

Global 2008/09 wheat production is projected 1.6 million tons higher this month to a record 684.4 million. Production is raised 1.4 million tons for Australia with higher harvested area and better-than-expected yields, especially in Western Australia. Smaller upward revisions are also made for Morocco, India, Mexico, and Bangladesh. Partly offsetting is a reduction for Turkmenistan.

World imports and exports for 2008/09 are projected higher this month. Imports are raised 1.0 million tons for Iran and 0.3 million tons each for Azerbaijan, Turkey, and the United States. Imports are also raised 0.2 million tons for Turkmenistan. Partly offsetting are reductions of 0.3 million tons each for Indonesia and Morocco, and 0.2 million tons for the Philippines. (continued on back page)

Wheat Supply and Use (continued from page three)

Exports are raised 1.0 million tons for Australia with the increase in production. Exports are also raised 1.0 million tons for Russia based on the strong pace of shipments to date. Exports are raised 0.5 million tons for Ukraine based on the pace

of sales and shipments and 0.5 million tons for EU-27 based on license and shipment data. Partly offsetting are reductions of 0.8 million tons for China and 0.5 million tons for the United States.

Projected world wheat consumption for 2008/09 is lowered 3.7 million tons, mostly reflecting lower expected feed use

in Russia and reduced food use in the United States. Global ending stocks are raised 5.9 million tons with larger stocks in Russia, the United States, Iran, and China accounting for most of the increase. At 155.9 million tons, world ending stocks are projected at a 6-year high.

World Wheat Supply and Use 1/

Region		Supply			Use			Ending Stocks
		Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports	Domestic Use 2/		Exports	
					Feed	Total		
					Million Metric Tons - 2008/09 (Projected)			
World 3/	Feb	119.59	682.78	123.00	122.93	652.41	123.48	149.96
	Mar	120.14	684.43	124.52	119.68	648.71	125.34	155.85
United States	Feb	8.32	68.03	2.99	6.26	34.29	27.22	17.84
	Mar	8.32	68.03	3.27	6.26	33.56	26.67	19.39
Total Foreign	Feb	111.27	614.75	120.01	116.67	618.12	96.27	132.13
	Mar	111.81	616.40	121.26	113.42	615.16	98.67	136.46
Major exporters 4/	Feb	20.17	207.43	6.40	69.33	149.26	54.50	30.25
	Mar	20.17	208.77	6.48	69.33	149.26	56.00	30.16
Argentina	Feb	0.30	8.40	0.03	0.08	5.08	3.50	0.15
	Mar	0.30	8.40	0.03	0.08	5.08	3.50	0.15
Australia	Feb	4.65	20.15	0.08	3.75	6.45	13.00	5.43
	Mar	4.65	21.50	0.08	3.75	6.45	14.00	5.78
Canada	Feb	4.82	28.61	0.30	3.50	8.23	19.00	6.50
	Mar	4.82	28.61	0.38	3.50	8.23	19.00	6.58
EU-27 5/	Feb	10.40	150.27	6.00	62.00	129.50	19.00	18.17
	Mar	10.40	150.26	6.00	62.00	129.50	19.50	17.66
Major importers 6/	Feb	64.35	174.71	65.80	12.75	229.12	7.33	68.42
	Mar	64.90	175.04	66.00	12.75	229.02	6.58	70.34
Brazil	Feb	0.45	5.80	6.00	0.40	10.75	0.80	0.70
	Mar	0.45	5.80	6.00	0.40	10.75	0.80	0.70
China	Feb	40.96	113.00	0.10	9.00	107.00	1.50	45.56
	Mar	40.96	113.00	0.10	9.00	107.00	0.75	46.31
Sel. Mideast 7/	Feb	6.36	13.91	16.95	1.65	30.60	0.55	6.06
	Mar	6.36	13.91	17.95	1.65	30.60	0.55	7.06
N. Africa 8/	Feb	11.05	15.78	20.00	0.20	35.73	0.23	10.87
	Mar	11.05	16.01	19.70	0.20	35.73	0.23	10.80
Pakistan	Feb	2.18	21.50	2.80	0.40	22.60	2.40	1.48
	Mar	2.18	21.50	2.80	0.40	22.60	2.40	1.48
SE Asia 9/	Feb	1.63	0.00	10.85	0.85	10.35	0.38	1.75
	Mar	2.18	0.00	10.35	0.85	10.25	0.38	1.90
Selected Other	Feb	6.41	78.40	0.00	0.10	77.60	0.20	7.01
	Mar	6.41	78.60	0.00	0.10	77.60	0.20	7.21
FSU-12	Feb	10.13	115.84	5.71	30.43	84.43	30.14	17.11
	Mar	10.13	115.54	6.33	27.18	81.18	31.79	19.03
Russia	Feb	2.30	63.70	0.30	20.20	44320	15.00	7.10
	Mar	2.30	63.70	0.30	17.20	41.20	16.00	9.10
Kazakhstan	Feb	1.91	12.50	0.03	2.70	7.50	5.20	1.74
	Mar	1.91	12.50	0.10	2.70	7.50	5.20	1.81
Ukraine	Feb	1.53	25.90	0.10	4.40	14.40	9.50	3.63
	Mar	1.53	25.90	0.10	4.40	14.40	10.00	3.13

1/ Aggregate of local marketing years. 2/ Total foreign and world use adjusted to reflect the differences in world imports and exports. 3/ World imports and exports may not balance due to differences in marketing years, grain in transit, and reporting discrepancies in some countries. 4/ Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU-27. 5/ Trade excludes intra-trade. 6/ Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, N. Africa, Pakistan, selected Middle East, and Southeast Asia. 7/ Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, and Oman. 8/ Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. 9/ Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank	Selected Specialty Crops
Potato Stocks	County Estimates
Quarterly Milk Production	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	Red Meat Production

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